

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01709 211910Z
ACTION STE-01

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R 211822Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9626

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1709

FOR OPR/ST - A BERNSTEIN

INFO: A/SY/OPS/T & ARA/MGT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASUP, ASEC
SUBJ: EMBASSY VEHICLE FLEET

REF: GUATEMALA 1529, STATE 98280, STATE 173398, STATE 70533,

1. THE EMBASSY VEHICLE FLEET CONSISTS OF SEVEN VEHICLES. ONE OF THE VEHICLES, A DODGE SPORTS WAGON, IS ASSIGNED AS THE MARINE GUARD VAN. THAT LEAVES THE EMBASSY WITH SIX VEHICLES WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

STATION WAGONS - 2 EACH
PANEL TRUCK - 1 EACH
STAKE TRUCK - 1 EACH
CARRYALL - 1 EACH
SPORTS WAGON - 1 EACH

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ABOVE LISTING OF VEHICLES, THE EMBASSY IS IN THE UNDESIRABLE POSITION OF NOT BEING SUPPLIED WITH SEDANS, INCLUDING A COM SEDAN. THE EMBASSY, SINCE 1971, HAS BEEN DEPENDENT 100 PERCENT UPON SY SUPPLIED VEHICLES. IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS THE EMBASSY HAS REALIZED HOW PRECARIOUS DEPENDENCE ON SY VEHICLES CAN BE AND WHAT TYPE OF SITUATION CAN AND MAY RESULT. ONE VEHICLE WAS LOANED TO EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR, AS PER SY INSTRUCTIONS, AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO GUATEMALA WITHIN FOUR WEEKS. IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW THREE MONTHS LATER AND THE SEDAN IS STILL IN SALVADOR AND MAY NEVER BE RETURNED TO GUATEMALA. OF THE SY VEHICLES REMAINING IN GUATEMALA AT THIS TIME, FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF THEIR CONDIT-
ION:

| YEAR | MAKE | CONDITION |
|------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1971 | CHEVROLET | 82,224 MILES RECOMMEND DISPOSAL |
| 1971 | CHEVROLET | 85,489 " " " |

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------|---------|---|---|----------------|
| 1971 | CHEVROLET | 100,000 | " | " | " |
| 1971 | CHEVROLET | 82,118 | " | " | " |
| 1971 | CHEVROLET | 93,307 | " | " | " |
| 1971 | CHEVROLET | 123,730 | " | " | " |
| 1974 | CHEVROLET | 26,838 | " | | GOOD CONDITION |
| 1977 | PLYMOUTH | 936 | " | | EXCELLENT |

2. THE AMBASSADOR'S SEDAN IS A FULLY ARMoured 1971 CHEVROLET. THE REMAINING SEVEN FOLLOW-CARS, EXCEPT FOR THE 1977 PLYMOUTH AND 1974 CHEVROLET ARE ALL NEARING OR HAVE EXCEEDED THE 100,000 MILE MARK. NONE OF THEM, SINCE THEY ARE USED AS FOLLOW CARS, CAN BE CONSIDERED AS AN APPROPRIATE COM REPLACEMENT VEHICLE IN THE EVENT THE COM SEDAN BREAKS DOWN.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY SY THAT THE VEHICLES WE NOW HAVE WILL NOT BE REPLACED ON A ONE FOR ONE BASIS. SY HAS ALSO STATED THAT IF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE VEHICLES DIMINISHES IN GUATEMALA, THEY MAY HAVE TO PULL OUT THE ENTIRE FLEET.

4. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR FIVE SEDANS, I.E., COM AND FOUR POOL VEHICLES TO REPLACE SECURITY CARS WHICH WILL SOON BE INOPERABLE. BOSTER

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